

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 1 please insert the following paragraph:

--TITLE OF THE INVENTION--

On page 1, line 2 please insert the following paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of GERMAN
Application No. 199 31 870.0 filed on July 9, 1999.--

On page 1, line 2, after the paragraph entitled "CROSS-
REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS", please insert the following
paragraph:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

On page 1, line 2, after the paragraph entitled "BACKGROUND
OF THE INVENTION" please insert the following paragraph:

--Field of the Invention--

On page 1, line 17, please insert the following paragraph:

--Prior Art--

On page 3, line 8, please insert the following paragraph:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--With the arrangement as defined by the invention and described above, the existing stream of melt is subjected to considerable shearing stress acting on the lower edge of the elastically deformable sleeve. Such shearing stress may cause inhomogeneities in the stream of melt which, with certain plastic materials and with extreme nozzle geometries, may cause quality reductions in the blow-molded hollow body. For the purpose of improving the smoothing effect and for achieving superior blow-molding results, the lower edge of the sleeve can be rounded off, or it may have a profiled edge shaping the exiting stream of melt, such a profiled edge having the shape of a conical chamfered surface. Other embodiments of the cylindrical sleeve are also disclosed ~~the objects of claim 4 and 5.~~--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--If the blow-molded plastic containers have to satisfy very high quality requirements, preferably an elastically deformable sleeve is used that is adapted to the course of the melt channel toward the end of the nozzle outlet side by a conical profile. The sleeve is preferably arranged in the body of the nozzle.
~~Therefore, an~~ An extruder head for extrusion blow-molding plastic

containers having these ~~with the features of claim 6 or 7~~ is an
~~the~~ object of the invention as well.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The compensation of the axial forces described above for
compensating the axial forces exerted on the sleeve by the stream
of the melt is possible also in an analogous manner if the sleeve
is arranged on the mandrel. Such an embodiment is another ~~the~~
object of the invention ~~claims 11 and 12~~.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 6
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--An unsymmetrical design of the sleeve poses the risk that
distortions may occur in the sleeve as it is being radially
deformed. Distortions are understood to be wave-like elevations
and deepenings on the top or lower edge of the sleeve. Such
distortions cause disturbing leaky spots between the sleeve and
the corresponding sliding surfaces of the nozzle body or mandrel.
The instruction as defined by the invention is based on the
finding that such distortions can be avoided or at least reduced
to a measure that no longer has any interfering effect if the
measures specified herein ~~in claim 6~~ are realized in combination.
~~The same applies to claim 11 accordingly.~~ With an unsymmetrical

design of the sleeve, the points of force application by the setting devices are preferably located according to the instruction of the invention not at the level of half of the height of the sleeve, i.e., they are located out of center in the longitudinal direction of the sleeve. The suitable cross-sectional plane for the points of force application can be determined with the help of orienting tests. The cross-sectional plane for the points of force application by the setting devices is usefully fixed within the framework of the instruction of the invention in such a way that in the presence of maximum deformation of the sleeve, distortions of maximally 60 μm , preferably 30 μm at the most occur on the upper face of the sleeve in the axial direction.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--If the points of force application by the setting devices are fixed at the level of half of the height of the sleeve in connection with an unsymmetrical embodiment of the sleeve, it is necessary to implement appropriate measures ~~in accordance with claim 7~~ in order to avoid distortions on the face side. In this case, the sleeve is provided with a collar on the outer side, which is designed in such a way that when the sleeve is deformed, the upper face of the sleeve guided on a sliding surface of the

nozzle body will at least approximately maintain its plane parallelism in relation to the sliding surface. The collar is preferably located at one end of the sleeve and forms the sliding surface. With the help of orienting tests it is possible to fix the design of the collar provided at one end, or of the collars provided at both ends, said two collars, however, being designed in different ways, in a way such that in the presence of maximum distortion of the nozzle, distortions of maximally 60 μm , preferably 30 μm at the most will occur on the upper face of the sleeve in the axial direction.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Mathematical methods for coordinating the points of force application or for realizing the sleeve are also described ~~in claims 15 and 16~~. Distortions on the upper face of the sleeve can be avoided if the sleeve has a collar serving as a sliding surface at least at one end, said collar being designed in such a way that the moment of area deviation determined for the wall profile of the sleeve is approximately zero in the center of gravity of the area, and that with such a design, the points of force application by the setting devices are arranged in the cross-sectional plane in which the area point of gravity is located. Wall profile means the profile of the sleeve viewed in

a longitudinal section. The area center of gravity in a YZ-system of coordinates has the following coordinates:--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Different constructional possibilities are available in connection with all embodiments of the invention described above for supporting the elastically deformable sleeve on the underside. Such possibilities are also described ~~in claims 18 to 23.~~

On page 13, line 4, please insert the following paragraph:
--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

On page 14, line 1, please insert the following paragraph:
--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-In the embodiments shown in FIGS. 7 and 8, the sleeve 3 is equipped with ~~wit~~ the cams 13 on the periphery. Said cams are radially movably disposed on a holding ring 10 and coupled to the setting devices 4. Beneath the cams, the sleeve 3 may have an undercut forming a ring-shaped support surface adjoining the

underside of the cams without any step. Furthermore, in peripheral sections between the cams 13 the sleeve may have a ring-shaped undercut that is engaged with radial play by ring segments forming the holding ring 10 in order to support the sleeve 3 (FIG. 8).--

Please replace the Abstract with the Abstract attached as Attachment A.

No new matter has been introduced.